

## **CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**Monday, February 2, 2015**

**The Center of Clayton – Multipurpose Room A**

**Members present:** Cynthia Garnholz, Michele Harris, Darryl Higuchi, Jane Klammer, David LaGesche, Jeanne Most, Becky Patel, Eric Schneider and Melanie Tamsky

**Absent:** Ira Berkowitz and Mark Stapleton

*Also Present:* Patty DeForrest, Wayne Dunker, Dan Krewson Toni Siering and Denise Ucinski

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from the January meeting were approved as corrected.

### **Addresses from the Audience:**

There were no addresses from the audience.

### **Shaw Park North Entry:**

The Clayton Century Foundation (CCF) received a gift of \$500,000 from Mr. Bob Chapman, Chairman and CEO of Barry-Wehmiller Companies, contingent on an agreement for the Shaw Park North Entry project. Mr. Chapman asked for the entry to be named Chapman Plaza. Ms. DeForrest noted that the sign at the north entry would still have Shaw Park, City of Clayton on it. The project would include the following enhancements: improved pedestrian access, benches, landscaping improvements, water feature (part of the storm water treatment project) and the north entry view will be more esthetically pleasing.

Ms. DeForrest showed the Commission the Shaw Park North Entry conceptual design boards which were produced towards the end of the Shaw Park Master Plan Overlay development. The draft plan was presented to the Board of Aldermen and the Parks and Recreation in the fall of 2013. Once under contract, SWT has indicated that their firm would need eighteen months to complete the phased project. Phases one through three would be run by SWT and would include: 1) refinement of the design and development of a final design, 2) Bidding of the project and 3) Construction. Community feedback would be solicited not only at Parks & Recreation Commission meetings but also through public forums, online solicitation of input as well as significant input from a steering committee. The steering committee would be a group of up to 8 people and could include the following; Members of Parks & Recreation Commission, Ms. DeForrest, the Assistant Public Works Director, representatives from Barry-Wehmiller as well as a representative from the Clayton Century Foundation. This committee would provide direction for the architect and be involved in construction decisions. Consideration of a proposed Pledge Agreement will be made by the BOA in March. The details of that agreement are still being negotiated.

Ms. DeForrest reminded the Commission that the Shaw Park Master Plan Overlay was done in order to obtain community input on this and other projects in Shaw Park. There was a lot of effort made to secure public input on the plan over the course of a year. The area is underutilized therefore having a beautiful entrance on the north hill would be a great enhancement to Shaw Park. Commission members viewed the most recent rendering of the plaza at the meeting. Ms. DeForrest also said there will be plenty of opportunities to mold the project before it is finalized.

### **Director's Report:**

Ms. DeForrest reviewed the Taylor Park Survey with the Commission. The purpose of the survey and its details were discussed. Mr. Schneider provided Ms. DeForrest with several valuable suggestions; the Taylor Park survey will be modified before it is sent to Old Towne residents. The City will seek feedback from a community engagement event at the park this spring. A RFP will be issued for playground designs this summer in order to secure a design for the purpose of applying for a St. Louis County Municipal Grant, due in October.

The City and the School District are working to finalize details with the donor funding the Newman Garden project. The intent of this project will be fairly simple with a goal of improving the turf and enhancing the landscaping in the circle.

Initially the Gateway Foundation had indicated that it would be too expensive to put the "One of Us" statue next to the Tree Top Playground. The foundation then considered the Newman Green area but decided against it, and now they are back to exploring the playground site.

Frontenac Tennis Club is the only contractor who submitted a proposal for management of the Shaw Park Tennis Center. The City is negotiating a new, three year agreement with them as they were very happy with them and have received very positive feedback from the community on their services.

The St. Louis Artist Guild is moving at the end of February. They are going to lease another property in Clayton. Greater St. Louis Community Foundation will be the new tenant leasing the #2 Oak Knoll Park. The next step is to finalize the construction document and get the letter of agreement in place. This foundation is responsible for managing people's charitable donations. The building may still be utilized as an event venue although the details of that arrangement are still to be determined.

Ms. DeForrest reported that the City received the Municipal Grant for the park needs analysis study. The study will begin later this spring and should take about three months.

Fox 2 News was at The Center of Clayton and the Shaw Park Ice Rink on Friday, January 30, reporting their live *In Your Neighborhood* segment. This was excellent promotion of the City, The Center and the District as well as businesses throughout Clayton.

Ms. Harris explained the Shaw Park Ice Rink site options and chart distributed to the Commission. The chart included a synopsis of all options and matrix explanations. These options will be discussed at the March meeting. The BOA will continue to discuss these options during the budget process this year.

**Old Business / New Business:**

No old or new business was reported.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted By: Denise Ucinski